

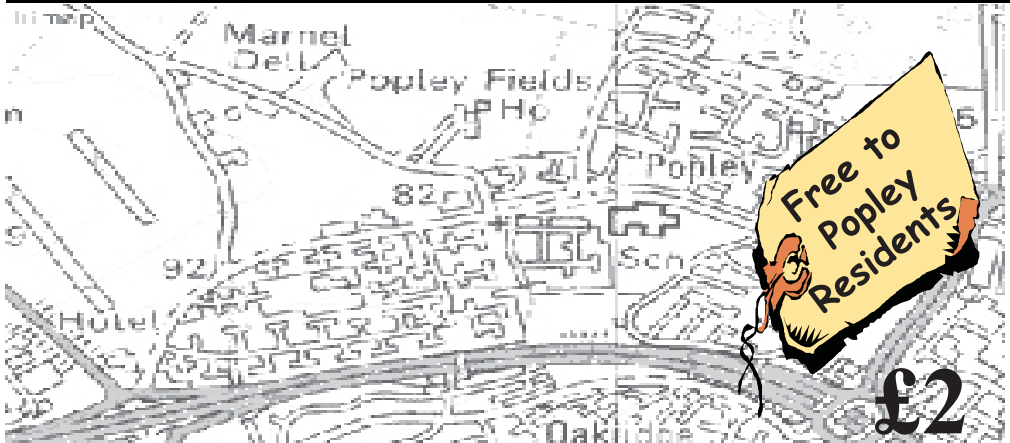
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

January 2018

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 191



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-1-18) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: Well yet another year is beginning and I wonder what is in store for all of us? I hope it is a good year for you and your families. The team at Popley Matters wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

We have a new regular young writer that will be writing each month with articles on many issues for our youth; welcome Ruby. You can read her first article on page 7. We would love to have more local residents putting articles in, what is after all, your community magazine; details are below where you can contact us. Popley

Fields Community Centre are giving notice of their AGM on page 11 and everyone is welcome. All the committees work so hard to make all the community halls in Popley a success. I know all our community centres would welcome any new volunteers.

There have been reports of multiple break-ins to cars all over the town areas including Marnel Park. Some of the owners had not locked their doors or had valuable items on show. Police advice is take precautions and check. Residents in Marnel Park have said they may want to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme so I asked Christie one of our Police Community Service Operatives, to make her contribution about the scheme; it is on page 11. We have been very proud to have been able to join The Merton Melodies (Merton Junior School Choir) at several events: - The Mayors Carol Service, I can honestly say they did Popley and themselves proud.

The choir master at the Mayor's Carol Service told me they did the harmonies really well, and he was very impressed; Melrose Hall Christmas dinner; and the over 65s Christmas Party. The party was run very well by the Year 9 students of Everest Academy. They did all the cooking too, to a very high standard. Why not write to Popley Matters about your school or club? **Contact me on 819924 or email editor@popleymatters.org.uk**



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editorial team, the members of the committee, or the Popley Matters magazine.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Area Distribution Manager Jeremy Jackman Martin Biermann; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Reader Lorraine Beaney.

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Thank you for your support.

Route 55

Hospital - Popley - Chineham - Old Basing

Popley Matters has carried regular articles about the Route 55 bus service since the pilot was first launched.

All the Councillors for Popley had argued for the route to be introduced following many requests from residents.

Despite this, passenger numbers have generally been low on the Popley section of the route so earlier in the year we arranged for flyers to be produced in an effort to raise awareness.

Unfortunately passenger numbers have not improved and as the service is run on an entirely commercial basis by BCT it is not sustainable unless this can be turned around.

If numbers do not improve by January we cannot guarantee the service will continue.

The service runs five days a week, Monday to Friday between Old Basing and Chineham, then around Shakespeare Road, Abbey Road and on to the Hospital. It is a 'hail to stop' service and copies of the full route and operating times are detailed in the timetable below. Fares are fixed at £1.00 and concessionary passes can be used.

Timetable available at <http://www.bct.me.uk/Route%2055.html>



Please use the service and tell your family and friends about it.

Mon, Wed & Fri

Tesco Chineham to Old Basing		11:25	13:25
Pyotts Hill	09:30	11:30	13:30
The Street Methodist Church	09:31	11:31	13:31
The Street Bakery	09:32	11:32	13:32
Park Lane	09:35	11:35	13:35
London Rd A30 W	09:36	11:36	13:36
London Rd A30 E	09:37	11:37	13:37
Hatch Lane South	09:38	11:38	13:38
Linden Avenue	09:39	11:39	13:39
Park Avenue W	09:41	11:41	13:41
Byfleet Avenue	09:42	11:42	13:42
Milkenpen Lane	09:43	11:43	13:43
Belle Vue Road Shops	09:45	11:45	13:45
Belle Vue Road East	09:47	11:47	13:47
Hatch Lane North	09:48	11:48	13:48
The Street Crown Pub	09:50	11:50	13:50
Great Binfield Road (Lychpit Surgery)	09:53	11:53	13:53
Tesco Chineham Arrive	09:57	11:57	13:57

Tesco Chineham to Hospital	10:00	12:00
Lidl Reading Rd W	10:02	12:02
Shakespeare Surgery	10:04	12:04
Popley Way	10:13	12:13
Abbey Road Shops	10:15	12:15
Hospital Arrive	10:25	12:25

Hospital Depart	11:00	13:00
Abbey Road Shops	11:05	13:05
Popley Way	11:07	13:07
Shakespeare Surgery	11:15	13:15
Lidl Reading Rd E	11:17	13:17
Tesco Chineham Arrive	11:19	13:19

Tues & Thursday

Tesco Chineham to Old Basing		11:25	13:25
Pyotts Hill	09:30	11:30	13:30
The Street Methodist Church	09:31	11:31	13:31
The Street Bakery	09:32	11:32	13:32
Park Lane	09:35	11:35	13:35
London Road A30	-	-	-
Park Avenue (All)	09:36	11:36	13:36
Blenheim Road	09:37	11:37	13:37
Linden Avenue	09:38	11:38	13:38
Byfleet Avenue	09:39	11:39	13:39
Milkenpen Road	09:40	11:40	13:40
Cavalier Road	09:42	11:42	13:42
Fairthorne Rise (Turnabout point)	09:44	11:44	13:44
Belle Vue Road East	09:47	11:47	13:47
Hatch Lane North	09:48	11:48	13:48
The Street Crown Pub	09:50	11:50	13:50
Great Binfield Road (Lychpit Surgery)	09:53	11:53	13:53
Tesco Chineham Arrive	09:57	11:57	13:57

Tesco Chineham to Hospital	10:00	12:00
Lidl Reading Rd W	10:02	12:02
Shakespeare Surgery	10:04	12:04
Popley Way	10:13	12:13
Abbey Road Shops	10:15	12:15
Hospital Arrive	10:25	12:25

Hospital Depart	11:00	13:00
Abbey Road Shops	11:05	13:05
Popley Way	11:07	13:07
Shakespeare Surgery	11:15	13:15
Lidl Reading Rd E	11:17	13:17
Tesco Chineham Arrive	11:19	13:19

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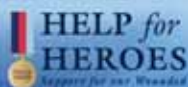
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Councillors' Page: I have requested more repairs for two more potholes outside 604 Abbey Road and two more pothole repairs outside Abbey Road shops, plus a carriageway pothole repair in Tintern Close. All have been marked for repair and should be done soon. The Highways Officer is also going to check all roads and pathways and I will let you know where there may be more repairs.

The salt carts have been busy and all priority roads will be done when needed. Can I remind our residents that the salt bins around the estate are for public areas and not personal use on your garage driveways. The roads are a priority so people can get to work or appointments. It is just a very few people that do help themselves to the salt/grit but it could mean when salting is needed the bins are empty. Please also do not use cat litter as it refreezes very quickly and is very slippery. Also the clay content in cat litter stains and can also rot your carpet!

Yearly I get people saying that they won't clear any areas as they would be liable if anyone slipped on pathways you clear and there is guidance on the Government websites that cover this subject. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: We wish you all a Happy New Year.

There have been many reports lately in the Marnel Park area of break-ins to cars. The police have asked that residents please ensure their cars are locked as it appears the culprits are trying doors, and has been normally between 1 and 3 in the morning. There are some residents' CCTV coverage that they have kindly forwarded to the police. If anyone else has any footage please let the police know. The residents in Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow area are looking at forming Neighbourhood Watch areas so I have asked our community police officer to write an article (on page 12) as we think that it would be useful in other parts of Popley too. If you are interested in starting up a group all contact details are in the article.

Tintern Close play area is getting good reports and being enjoyed by our little ones. Hopefully in the spring the Popley Community Park and other play areas in the Popley area may have some more work done on them.

cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924
cllr.paul.frankum@basingsstoke.gov.uk
cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924
cllr.jane.frankum@basingsstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: Currently we are trying get action on a number of highway issues in the area. All fall under the responsibility of County Highways. They will be adding signage and kerbs on Popley Way to stop U turns being performed by drivers who, in the main, appear to have been shopping at Lidl's or Dunelms and want to turn back towards Chineham.

We have had complaints about speeding in Carpenters Down and Shakespeare Road and would like to see proper calming measures in Shakespeare Road coupled with speed restrictions and further measures in Carpenters Down to reduce the dangers of excessive speed in that road. Residents' petitions may help in getting across to County Highways and the Police the strength of feeling from the local community. We have been successful in places in getting the agencies and others to take responsibility for tidying up the estate for residents and others. This involves getting landscaping cut back and the issue of overgrown landscaping linked to overgrown weeds is high on the agenda. Where possible we work closely with our landscaping maintenance staff, Housing Association representatives and others for the joint benefit of the Popley residents.

As local Councillors we wish you all a happy and healthy year in 2018.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801
cllr.david.potter@basingsstoke.gov.uk
Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200
cllr.janet.westbrook@basingsstoke.gov.uk



What A fabulous Christmas we had here at the hall. It was great to see so many returning and new faces. Our annual Community Christmas meal was again a full house, with the Mayor and Mayoress in attendance and beautiful singing from Merton Junior School Choir.



Melrose Community Association would like to wish you all a healthy and happy new year. This spring will see the start of the refurbishment and extension of the hall and is very much awaited by us and all our patrons, it will be fabulous when it's finished. Watch this space!

WHATS ON IN JANUARY:

- MONDAY:** 12.30-2.30pm Bingo!!
7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 9.30am-12.00am Popley Little People
5.00-7.30pm Sama Karate
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.00am Slimming World
11.00am Slimming World
11.45am-1.30pm Oasis Lunch club
5.30 & 7.30pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Community Café
8.00-9.00pm 4 Fits Sake
- FRIDAY:** 10.00am-1.30pm Melrose Tots
6.15-9.15pm Friday Youth Club
- SATURDAY:** 9.15am-4.00pm 7TH Day Adventist Church
10am Sabath School - Bible Study
11.30am Divine Worship
1pm Free Community Lunch
Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details
- SUNDAY:** Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.
2.00-5.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, conferences and regular groups. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehal21@gmail.com or website www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose Hall.

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What you get

Each Samaritans volunteer gets something different from their time with us, whether it be developing a new skill or just the feeling of knowing you're there for someone when they need it most. We operate a supportive and unique environment where you will receive full training and ongoing support from a network of volunteers.

Why we want you

There are many ways to get involved as a Samaritans volunteer, whether it be as a listening or fundraising volunteer, or to help with publicity, there will be a place at Samaritans for you. We also reach out to the community by working with schools, colleges and universities, prisons, hospitals, and major music festivals.

Find out more about volunteer roles at Basingstoke Samaritans using the details opposite.



Find out about volunteering with Basingstoke Samaritans

- 📞 01256 353473*
- ✉️ recruitment@basingstokesamaritans.org.uk
- 🌐 samaritans.org/basingstoke
- 🐦 @samaritansbas

SAMARITANS
BASINGSTOKE

*Local call charges apply. A registered charity.

Hello,

I am Ruby Jolliffe, a seventeen-year-old with a passion for helping others to reach their full potential and enjoy life along the way. I have an interest in journalism so am practising my communication skills with you! I go to Peter Symonds College and even though I am still studying my A-Levels, I have learned a lot throughout my journey in education and the sometimes dreaded ‘teenage’ years.

I feel it is necessary for us, a group of so called teens often labelled as ‘moody’ ‘boisterous’ ‘wild’ or ‘difficult’ to put an end to the name calling and show our true characters and the delights we can be. Hormones can be taken into consideration when they decide to flare up or explode in a fiery temper! We are still growing and are still children, just some of us slightly taller, some with stubbly chins, some with exotic hair colours and some still looking like a 12-year-old boy who at heart loves ‘Pokémon Go’ but in fact is an 18-year-old ‘man’ who is going to Oxford University in 2018.

But it is all ok. We are all changing and developing and we need to work together to succeed.

My ‘Teen Talk’ isn’t going to replicate a boring and dreary school assembly of incessant demands and inspirational quotes making you feel slightly nauseous or cringe; or reminding you that you’d rather be asleep in your bed or watching the infamous @Zoella’ (whom let’s face it, we are all too ashamed to admit to each other that we have been watching her since we were 11 whilst trying to copy her ‘top knot’ hairstyles and ‘Autumn Berry Eyes’ tutorial- well we still are).

Anyway, I am here to put together all our worries, hurdles and problems that we will communally face as we try to learn about and embrace the feared ‘adulthood’. Also to try make life more bearable as we get to grips with our developing bodies and go on a quest to understand what is really going on!

We will survive. Our parents did, and they didn’t turn out too bad, right? Who knows! Our individualities are so vast that no one really knows the rights and wrongs in our tiny bubbles. We can work together to get some ideas of how to make it through and flourish.

Email me with any ideas and questions you have and together we can make sense of what is happening as you progress into a teenager @ rubyj17@gmail.com

Let’s take care of ourselves and each other

Remember “Work hard! Play hard!”
Ruby J xoxo

Basingstoke Voluntary Action



Charity & Community Group Support & Information

www.bvaction.org.uk

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6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter

Our Christmas Quiz "Merry Quizmas" was a great success and from the feedback we received everyone had a great evening. Congratulations go out to team "Santa and His Elves" who triumphed with all their Christmas knowledge and won the big prize. We also held a prize raffle that received a huge amount of interest and we would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for it.

On 9th December we helped out at the Mayor's Civic Carol Service, a fantastic performance from both choirs. It was really good to see so many from the community come out to see it. Then on the following Sunday we all came back together to attend St. Gabriel's Christingle Service, another great evening.

2 new members have joined our ranks of the Anchors and Juniors section but there is still plenty of room for others if you would like to come along (Monday after 6:15pm).

Please note: For those already part of our company or those wanting to come along one evening during the Christmas period our last meeting of the year is on the 18th of December and we will reopen on the 8th Jan.

Are you up to the challenge?

We are looking for volunteers to join our officer and helper team. We meet on a Monday evening from 6:15-7:15pm and need additional support running our younger section. Give us a ring: **07775 535434** or drop us an email: **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.



Was your child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014?

If so they will be starting school in September 2018! Marnel Community Infants is an outstanding infant school that provides an exciting and innovative education to all of its pupils including access to our Forest School programme. Our academic results are in the top 10% of all schools in the country and our facilities have all been updated in the last two years. If you would like to look around the school and meet the Headteacher we have a new parent tour on Wednesday 10th January at 9.15am – please telephone the school office to book a place or to make an alternative date if this is not convenient 01256 329521.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community.



Everest Community Academy
 Oxford Way,
 Basingstoke
 RG24 9DP
 Phone: 01256 485547



The Students and Staff at Everest Community Academy wish you a Happy and Peaceful 2018



On 6th December, we hosted our annual GCSE Presentation Evening. The evening was well attended by many past students, parents and staff. Our congratulations to all the award winners, especially Chloe Hooley who received the top award for overall achievement.

Over 65 Christmas Party—Thursday 14 December

45 Guests enjoyed a festive buffet prepared by our Year 9 Catering Students and Ms Newman. Guests were entertained by 'Merton Melodies' with Christmas Carols. Our thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke who supported this event.



As Christmas drew near, both students and teachers anticipated the festive times ahead. School has been fun these past few months- despite the chilly weather- and, although I looked forward to the holidays, I missed the daily routine and companionship that school offers. With all the new changes that have happened, I felt like I would dread getting up each morning and going to school, but I couldn't be more wrong! I enjoy my day, not just because I get to spend it with my friends, but also because I love the work provided and the happiness when I get a question right, and I'm sure others feel the same. I enjoyed the break, but I looked forward to returning in the Spring Term.



Happy New Year everyone!

Upcoming Dates:

Monday 8 January—First day of term

Thursday 18 January—Year 8 & 9 Options Evening @ 4pm

Students View

Jennifer Weldon Head
 Girl Year 11

Popley Fields Community Association

AGM

Thursday 25th January 2018 at 7.00pm

Everybody is welcome

Please come along and join us to see what the community centre does throughout the year.

COFFEE MORNING DAY CHANGE

STARTING FROM

17TH JANUARY 2018

IT WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

11.00AM-1.00PM



Dear readers,

I have been asked by several residents about setting up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in their roads, and so this is what I will be discussing today.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are fantastic when used properly, it can improve home security and encourage greater vigilance amongst people living and passing through their areas. It fosters a great community spirit and allows everyone to meet and get to know each other.

Schemes are run by members through a co-ordinator and supported but not run by Police. A volunteer co-ordinator (a resident) will liaise with Police. The co-ordinator is acting for a voice of the community.

It is a common misconception that 50% of the road is needed to create a scheme. I have however found out that this is not true and that only two residents are needed (although I would encourage co-ordinators to still try and recruit as many as they can as this is a lot to take on)!

What does a co-ordinator's role include?

- Contact households to arrange a meeting to discuss setting up a scheme;
- Communicating with Police;
- Stickers for doors;
- Fear of crime surveys;
- Circulating newsletters and leaflets;
- Encouraging members to report and explaining what to report;
- Identifying vulnerable households and speaking to newcomers; and
- Identifying environmental problems and reporting them to the correct agencies.

If you are interested, the first step is to arrange a meeting in your street with residents who may be interested in order to ascertain who will become a member, what your expectations are and what you want to achieve.

You may then get into contact with John Dick – a co-ordinator. He is available to email on jdick040@gmail.com .

More information is also available on their website www.bdnw.org.uk/v3.

You may also see more on facebook: [@neighbourhoodwatchbasingstokedeane](https://www.facebook.com/@neighbourhoodwatchbasingstokedeane)

I look forward to working with you in the future and wish you well.

PCSO Norris

16287



Probus Visit to Wadworth's Brewery

The Probus Club of Basingstoke, whose members are retired professional and business managers, has been in continuous existence for over 39 years. As well as business type meetings with guest speakers and social lunches and dinners involving wives and partners they also visit places of interest within a day's ride.

The latest visit was a coach trip to Devizes in Wiltshire, ostensibly to have a guided tour around the Wadworth brewery. It is still family owned since its foundation in 1875. However as it was market day and the brewery tour was scheduled for 2pm there was ample time to wander around this ancient market town, browse the many individual shops and enjoy a spot of lunch.

Some went to look at the Caen Hill rising lock system on the Kennet & Avon canal that runs at the rear of the brewery, while others sampled the delights of this old town that houses an impressive indoor market as well as the extensive and what appeared to be attractive value to be had from the outdoor market. There were visits to a flea market and a museum that displays Roman artefacts, including reference to the Emperor Probus, before the brewery tour commenced. Because of the many steep stairs in this old building some excused themselves from the brewery tour but joined later to visit the stables and see the Shire horses that are used to pull the drays to the pubs within two miles of the brewery. These handsome beasts go on display at several shows in the south western region during the summer. All then adjourned to the Harness bar for a free tasting of the ales on display. An enjoyable visit and well recommended.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their Secretary Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



Music and Merriment at Merton Junior School

Recently the Mayor of Basingstoke, Cllr Paul Frankum, accompanied by the Mayoress Cllr Jane Frankum, visited Merton Junior School in order to meet the designer of this year's Mayor's Christmas card, Freya Melton. They were also able to listen to the whole school practice their Christmas carols and songs for the schools upcoming visit to St Bede's Church.

As part of their visit, the Mayor and Mayoress also met the newly elected School Councillors, who represent the views of all of the pupils on our School Council. The children were presented with a badge from the Mayor, which they were all very pleased about.

The festivities have been arriving thick and fast at school and we were able to hold a Mince Pie and Coffee morning for all of our parents and carers. The tasty morsels were available from 8am and the parents also had the opportunity to listen to our wonderful school choir sing many traditional Christmas carols and songs,

something that they have also completed within the community, making visits to Melrose Hall, Magnolia Court, Chute House



and Everest Community Academy.



The BBC can offer Strictly Come Dancing at the weekends for us all to enjoy, well at Merton Junior School we also have 'Strictly'. This is an after school club run by Mrs Bridle, who teaches the children a range of different dances techniques and at

the end of each term puts on an exhibition of what the children have learned. Parents and teachers are invited to the spectacular and the event modelled to them how much the children had developed in dance over the term. At the end of the event, the children partnered with



their parents and the teachers in order to complete a Barn Dance....needless to say, the children were brilliant....adults may have needed a little more work!

It is at this point that all of us at Merton Junior School wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Clear Snow from a Road, Path or Cycleway

You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself. It's unlikely that you'll be sued or held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you've cleared it carefully.

How to clear snow and ice

When you clear snow and ice:

- do it early in the day - it's easier to move fresh, loose snow;
- don't use water - it might refreeze and turn to black ice;
- use salt if possible - it will melt the ice or snow and stop it from refreezing overnight (but don't use the salt from salting bins as this is used to keep roads clear);
- you can use ash and sand if you don't have enough salt - it will provide grip underfoot; and
- pay extra attention when clearing steps and steep pathways-using more salt may help.

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Dear Friends

Okay, let's all say a big welcome to 2018! Christmas and New Year celebrations are done and dusted for another year and it's time to take down the tinsel and lights – my bank account is a few pounds lighter and I'm a few pounds heavier so it's time to sit down and seriously consider my New Year's resolutions. Actually, a few years ago I made the one and only resolution that I've managed to keep and that's NOT to make any more New Year's resolutions.

That doesn't mean to say I don't have hopes, plans and dreams for the coming year, without them life could be really dull. At St Gabriel's we're really looking forward to the completion of the extension to our community buildings. They're looking really smart and we hope to have the first phase in use by the end of January!

So what are your hopes for the coming year? Perhaps you're looking forward to a family wedding or a birth; or maybe that holiday of a lifetime in the summer; perhaps a career change or a move of home. Perhaps the year ahead looks uncertain – career prospects looking dodgy, finances stretched or ill health. Hopes and plans are important to us as they provide something to hang onto when times are tough. Hope for something better lying just around the corner, planning for a brighter future. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews in the Bible writes *“who hopes for what they already have?”*

Before I became a Christian I used to dream of career and financial success in the belief that it would bring an end to all of my life's worries and anxieties. I used to believe that if I worked hard enough for the family the kids would grow up without suffering any of the storms of life that I'd had to sail through. Unrealistic or what? But it's what we spend a lot of our time doing for ourselves and those we love – isn't it?

In the Bible I read this: *“I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm you..”* One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was the truth of those words and that God has the most amazing plan for my life. God doesn't promise to take away the stresses and strains of daily living but what he does promise that whatever happens he'll be their right in the thick of it with us (have you ever read that well known verse 'Footprints'?) and he promises to fulfil that longing that is deep within our hearts. Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you.
God's blessings.

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WHEN it is cold and dark it may well be tempting to stay curled up under your duvet and ‘pull a sickie.’

If you are an employee considering calling in sick, or an employer dealing with this issue, it is important to understand the potential consequences.

If an employee makes up or exaggerates an illness or injury in order to pull a sickie, they can be dismissed by their employer for misconduct. This is because it breaches an implied term of their employment contract called mutual trust and confidence. An employer will usually be able to fairly dismiss an employee if there were reasonable grounds for belief in the misconduct, following a reasonable investigation, and the misconduct in question was sufficiently serious to merit dismissal.

Employees may take a sick day for a genuine reason and in some cases there is added employment protection for such employees. For example, where their mental and or physical condition amounts to a legal disability, relates to a pregnancy, an accident at work or is due to the unreasonable conduct of their employer. Employees should note that there are very short time limits that apply to employment claims, in most cases three months, so they should not delay in seeking advice.

On the other hand, some employers are left with malingering employees either constantly pulling sickies or on long term sick leave, which can have a crippling effect on their business. If employers do not follow a fair process they could find themselves pulled into lengthy and sometimes costly employment tribunal litigation.

We offer fixed fee initial consultation meetings where you can discuss your work issues in a supportive environment and receive the advice you need to help you protect your rights and resolve any work related issues.

If you have been taking sick days for genuine reasons and feel that you have been treated unfairly or if you are concerned about a member of your staff taking sick days you can contact Gill Brown on 01256 854605 gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk



For more information about the services offered by Phillips Solicitors, visit www.phillips-law.co.uk



MFCPY U7s have been sensational once again. Gianni, Ethan, Jamie and Harry showed immense togetherness to perform when sickness left us with 4 vs 5 players. They worked together as a team and deserved all the plaudits they received.

MFCPY U9 Reds recently won the Peter Houseman Youth League Plate Final 5-1 against a strong Hatch Warren Phoenix, and were superbly supported by the U9 Black team, who due to the cup draw were knocked out in the semi-finals to the Red Team. This marked a real achievement for this group of players, as it was their first tournament win for MFC Popley Youth. The club is very proud of both teams.

MFCPY U11s were also victorious in their Cup run, playing Oakley Youth FC and winning the Cup Final 2-1. It was a very close match, but true grit and determination saw the team through! Well done team!

MFCPY U12s finish the year top of the table. Some hard fought victories have shown that the lads are ready for the fight that awaits them after the break in their challenge for honours. Sam and William stepped up recently when the team really needed digging out of a hole. Well done chaps!

MFCPY U15s played Aldershot Town FC in the Hampshire Cup Quarter final last week, winning 3-2, and securing their place in the Semi-Finals in January – watch this space for updates on their progress!

The Committee would like to thank everyone involved with MFC Popley Youth for all their hard work throughout the year and would also like to extend a Happy New Year wish from the club to the Coaches, Volunteers, Players, Parents, Spectators and wider community too.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC_PopleyYouth and by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY.

MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club has a dedicated club shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories - www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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Group Scout Leader:	Colin Karslake	01256 410559
Scout section:	Kevin Pocock	07717 108 560
Cub Scout section:	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Beaver Scout section:	Vacant Leader post – contact GSL	

The Beavers have visited Paulton Park and had a wonderful time, the weather was very kind to them and they all returned happy and tired. Well done to the Leaders for keeping up with the youngsters.

Eastrop Park was a hit with the Beavers and Leaders, lots to do and various areas for play and climbing. The Park is always busy as there is so much to see and do. This is well worth a visit either for a stroll or for the whole family. The boating lake sadly was not utilised this time, but is a great way to introduce children to the water and water safety.

New Beavers have been invested and after Christmas a couple of the older ones will be joining the Cub section, we wish these Beavers well in their Scouting adventure, camping out at various times of the year for a weekend or week throughout the year.

A visit to Winchester Science Museum on 16th December was something different for the Beavers to do. Lots of activities and an introduction to the wonderful world of science.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year, enjoy your families and friends at this special time of year and we will see you all in 2018.

Beavers will start back on Tuesday 9th January.

The Group is in great need of more leaders in all sections. Adults must satisfy Confidential Enquiry and Disclosure and Barring Service clearance but, apart from wanting to help young people have fun and extend their knowledge/skills, no other experience is required. Training is given 'on-the-job' - roles are flexible - uniformed or non-uniformed and can work round shifts/other commitments. Find out more from Group Scout Leader Colin (01256) 410559 / 07796 772 500 or e-mail colink@base2000.co.uk

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Monday evening C.M.A. keep fit and kick boxing from 6.30-8.00pm.

Tuesday evening Community bingo, doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm. Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available at halftime).

Thursday evening Street dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult 4.30 - 6.30pm, school term time. Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484.

Thursday evening C.M.A kick boxing from 7 - 8.30pm.

Friday evening Friday Club (children) 6 -7pm.

The hall is also available to hire for parties etc at reasonable rates.

Overs 55s Forum

This year 2017 has been another very successful year with a membership of 650 and some 35 waiting to join for 2018. We have achieved so much this year and have been congratulated on our support for all over 55s in the Borough. Our bi-monthly Open Forum meetings have been well attended with between 180 and 240 on each occasion, good selection and variety of Guest Speakers. Our coach trips have been well supported with at least 2 coaches for each trip, and if there are places available, these are open to non members. The highlight trip for 2017 will be the Christmas Carols at the Royal Albert Hall when we are taking a group of 213, which will be 4 coaches.

Trips being planned for 2018 are.

19th February 2018 a visit to Stow Maries Aerodrome with 2 film shows, tour of the Aerodrome, afternoon tea and Lorrie Brown as Vera Lynn.
16th March Royal Mint Experience at Llantrisant and Cardiff.
17th - 20th May a 4 day break to Liverpool, with a tour of Liverpool, time for sightseeing, a round trip on the Mersey ferry, Anderton Boat Lift Experience, coach tour and admission to Sunlight Village.
30th August visit to the Aldwych Theatre London to see the "Tina Turner" Concert. Others in the planning stage are. Tour of the Morgan Car factory - Denbies Winery - Postal Nuseum - JCB Factory Tour and many more. Keep looking in the Popley Matters. Anyone interested in any of our trips, if there are seats available, they are more than welcome to join us. Contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merriott@ntlworld.com

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